

HOUSE BILL 358

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to a pilot project for behavior  
management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of education shall establish a pilot project for the 2019-2020  
school year to implement ticket programs for behavior management in Tennessee Title I  
public schools:

(1) In which at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the school's overall  
student population was suspended during the 2018-2019 school year;

(2) In which at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the students comprising  
one (1) or more of the school's population subgroups were suspended during the  
2018-2019 school year;

(3) In which at least five percent (5%) of the school's overall student  
population was expelled during the 2018-2019 school year;

(4) In which at least five percent (5%) of the students comprising one (1)  
or more of the school's population subgroups were expelled during the 2018-  
2019 school year; or

(5) Identified as a priority school in 2018 for failing to graduate one-third  
(1/3) or more of the school's enrolled students.

(b) The ticket programs created by the department must:

(1) Be age appropriate; and

(2) Encourage students to make good choices for a better future by issuing tickets to students for demonstrating positive behaviors in school and by creating a process for the students to redeem tickets in exchange for rewards.

(c) An LEA may implement a ticket program, including, but not limited to, one (1) or more of the ticket programs created by the department pursuant to this section, in any of the LEA's schools, regardless of whether the school is a Title I school.

(d) Before any Title I school required to implement a ticket program pursuant to subsection (a) is scheduled to begin classes for the 2019-2020 school year, the department shall solicit input from teachers and administrators with experience using a ticket program for behavior management and with experience serving students at the Title I schools required to implement a ticket program for the 2019-2020 school year.

(e) In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), § 10-7-504, and any other relevant state or federal privacy laws and policies, at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, the department shall study, evaluate, and report for each Title I school required to implement a ticket program under subsection (a):

(1) The rate of student participation in the ticket program;

(2) The number of, and reason for, any student suspensions, expulsions, or dropouts during the 2019-2020 school year; and

(3) Information collected from teachers, parents, students, and administrators regarding the success of the school's ticket program and whether it should be continued.

(f) The department shall report its findings, conclusions, and any recommendations regarding the pilot project created under this section to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives by December 31, 2020.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.